

Message

From: Stavnes, Sandra [Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov]
Sent: 5/10/2018 9:34:58 PM
To: Benevento, Douglas [benevento.douglas@epa.gov]; Thomas, Deb [thomas.debrah@epa.gov]
CC: Smidinger, Betsy [Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]; Strobel, Philip [Strobel.Philip@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: EPA awards BLM Vernal Environmental Planning Coordinator a National Honor Award Gold Medal

Doug/Deb

Thought you would appreciate seeing the great feedback we got from BLM for recognizing their planning coordinator with our team for a Gold Medal.

Sandy

Sandy Stavnes
Deputy Assistant Regional Administrator
Office of Ecosystems Protection and Remediation
US EPA, Region 8
303-312-6117

From: Strobel, Philip
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2018 12:52 PM
To: Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>; Hestmark, Martin <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>; Daly, Carl <Daly.Carl@epa.gov>; Morales, Monica <Morales.Monica@epa.gov>; Fiedler, Kerri <Fiedler.Kerri@epa.gov>
Cc: Schuller, Jennifer <Schuller.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA awards BLM Vernal Environmental Planning Coordinator a National Honor Award Gold Medal

FYI: Looks like BLM really appreciated this EPA Gold Medal recognition. The last paragraph in the article was particularly noteworthy ("*...the BLM/EPA relationship is stronger than ever...*")

Phil

=====

http://www.ubmedia.biz/news/article_d683dea6-4e24-11e8-9126-e360f057c78f.html

EPA awards Vernal Environmental Planning Coordinator a National Honor Award Gold Medal

Uintah Basin Standard/Vernal Express
Submitted by BLM
May 8, 2018

On April 4, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Green River District Manager, Gary Torres, presented Stephanie Howard with a "Gold Medal for Exceptional Service" award from the Environmental Protection Agency. Stephanie received this prestigious award for her work on the Monument Butte Air Quality Protection Team.

This interagency team of BLM and EPA professionals, developed an innovative air quality mitigation program that protects human health in Indian Country, while advancing energy development. The

team's exemplary partnership also advanced the EPA's air quality and chemical safety strategic goals.

In the last ten years, elevated winter ozone has become an issue, primarily in oil and gas basins. Oil and gas fields include numerous emission sources from drilling, completion, production, storage and transport infrastructure. Energy development in those basins remains critical to fulfill existing federal lease obligations, support local economies and secure the nation's energy independence.

The Monument Butte Energy Project was proposed by the Newfield Production Company to expand oil and gas production in the Uinta Basin. The Basin is home to 20,000 Northern Ute Tribal members on the Uintah and Ouray Reservations. Initially, the Team's goal was to develop a "net zero" emission strategy for this project, but it was determined to be technically impossible to account for the project's temporary and mobile source emissions. The Team persevered with its efforts to find a solution that could add 57 percent more wells in an impaired air shed without contributing to non-attainment of the ozone air quality standard.

The Team established principles that would have to be met by any mitigation solution. Any acceptable mitigation strategy had to be:

- Protective
- Accountable and Transparent
- Adjustable to Changing Regulatory Environment
- Flexible

These principles set a high bar and ensured that both the EPA and BLM's environmental protection objectives would be met, and they addressed Newfield's primary concerns. The Team also developed a strategy that allowed the company to proceed with the project while preventing objectionable impact to the environment.

The strategy components include:

- An Annual Emissions Balance Sheet to ensure that new stationary sources would not result in net increases of ozone-forming emissions.
- A Directed Inspection and Maintenance Program to detect and fix leaks and maintenance-related emissions.
- An Ozone Action Plan to shut down discretionary emissions during high ozone episodes.

Through the Team's tireless commitment to overcoming barriers, the BLM/EPA relationship is stronger than ever, Newfield's productions can expand, future successes are now possible on oil and gas projects nationally, and public health in the Uinta Basin will not be negatively impacted. The BLM is already applying this model with other projects.